

**AGENDA ITEM III B**

**PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

**LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COLLEGE - TECHE AREA CAMPUS**

**A.A.S. IN COMPUTER NETWORK ADMINISTRATION**

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##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Located in New Iberia, LTC-Teche was established originally in 1950 as a trade school. After becoming a vocational-technical school and then a technical institute, it was designated a technical college by the Legislature in 1995. The campus was then placed under LCTCS governance in 1999. According to the Board of Regents Master Plan (2001), the mission of the LTC is to deliver “instructional programs that prepare skilled employees for business and industry...within a life-long learning environment.”

The campus has been offering diploma and certificate programs in computer networking since November 2000. As noted in the proposal, the campus is a working Cisco Academy:

*Teche Area is also the only Cisco-approved CCNP Academy in the state of Louisiana. The CCNP courses are an integral part of this associate degree program. Currently, only Southern University teaches such advanced network courses as part of a certificate program. Teche Area is also proud to serve as the only pilot school in the United States approved by Cisco Systems to offer CCNP courses in a blended distance education environment. The use of distance education will make this associate degree available to campuses across the state.*

##### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

##### **1. Nature/Curriculum**

The proposed program is composed of general education coursework (15 hrs., consistent with BOR policy), a variety of preparatory hours in such areas as keyboarding, internet applications, and job seeking skills (7 hrs. total), and forty-seven (47) credit hours in such areas as:

- Operating Systems
- Wide Area Network Protocols
- Basic and Advanced Router Configuration
- Network Installation and Troubleshooting
- Programming - VisualBasic.net, and other languages
- Network Security

Total hours: 69.

The curriculum and its courses are specifically designed to prepare students to pass the following national, industry-based certification exams: CompTIA's A+, Network+, iNet+, Server+, and Security+; Ciscos' Certified Network Associate (CCNA), Cisco Certified Network Design (CCDA), and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP). The proposal included detailed descriptions of the program's different exit points.

In-state reviewers and staff expressed concern that Visual Basic was the only programming language addressed in the curriculum's only programming course. The campus responded:

*The faculty agrees that Visual BASIC.Net is a better choice for this course and in fact the instructor is using Visual BASIC.Net to teach the course. We also agree that this course should not be specific only to Visual Basic. The programming language used should reflect industry demands at the time of course offering. We would like to change the name of this course to Introduction to Programming and change the description to a more generic programming language course.*

In-state reviewers and staff also expressed concern that the course entitled "Introduction to Unix/Linux" was an elective and that consideration should be given to making it required. The campus responded:

*If we remove 3 credits of electives to require [this course], we will be eliminating one of the CCNP or security courses needed for industry-based certification. The faculty would like to keep [this course] as an elective, or increase the program length by 3 credits in order to include the subject as a required course.*

## **2. Need**

Local demand for graduates of this type of program is currently modest but is expected to increase. When asked to comment on local demand, the campus responded as follows:

*The local job market for this program continues to grow. Recent graduates have been placed with employers such as Global Data Systems, Datel Computers, Cox Communications, Iberia Parish School Board, casinos, Baker Hughes Inteq, Centennial Wireless, Vermilion Parish School Board, and Sigma Solutions. Graduates of this program would qualify for six of the job openings listed in a local newspaper over the past thirty days. In [our] labor market area, the Louisiana Department of Labor projects 40 job openings annually for graduates of this program.*

There are other considerations: 1) currently, the campus' diploma program articulates with an out-of-state A.A.S. program in Florida; students take a number of credits at LTC-Teche and then enroll in this Florida institution via distance learning technologies -- and they graduate from the Florida institution; 2) due the lack of an A.A.S. on campus, students currently desire to transfer to a private school in Lafayette to complete an associate-level degree. The campus therefore has an opportunity to make the LTC more competitive with its private and/or out-of-state peers by offering the A.A.S. degree.

### **3. Students**

Since 2000, enrollment in the campus' diploma and certificate programs has burgeoned: 242 students have been enrolled, twenty have graduated with a diploma, and 56 have exited with a certificate. An additional twenty are expected to graduate with a diploma this year. Sixty students are currently enrolled and wish to earn an associate-level degree. Projections are as follows:

	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
<b>New</b>	30	50	50	50	50
<b>Continuing</b>	50	45	40	37	36
<b>Headcount</b>	80	95	90	87	86
<b>FTE</b>	64	76	72	70	64
<b>Graduates</b>	20	42	40	39	38

The graduation rate includes only students who would obtain an A.A.S. degree. The campus estimates that 75% of exiters would leave with a credential of TCA, CTS, or Technical Diploma. The student-faculty ratio based on FTE students is 31:1.

In-state reviewers and staff expressed concern about the campus' arrangements for remediation. The campus responded as follows:

*Students enrolling who do not possess adequate scores on entrance exams are enrolled in developmental education courses in math, reading, and/or English. Students who do not successfully pass remedial coursework are not eligible for a degree. The college also employs a peer tutor to assist networking students with difficult coursework. Students schedule individual time with the peer tutor when needed.*

### **4. Faculty**

Four instructors on staff teach general education coursework; all have credentials consistent with SACS-COC principles. Six faculty offer major coursework and possess impressive credentials. As one in-state reviewer noted:

*The three Cisco-certified faculty apparently possess the requisite training to teach the associate level in this field [...] Cisco's designation of the Teche Campus as an approved CCNP Academy is an impressive credential. Cisco certification, up to the Professional level, is required for such a designation, and the faculty seems to be well-qualified in that respect.*

## **5. Library**

The campus states that current library holdings will be sufficient for the program. Carl Perkins Leadership grants have provided resources to expand the library holdings in FY 2001-2002 and FY 2002-2003. Due to online resources available for this program, the campus does not anticipate a need to expand library holdings in this area.

## **6. Facilities and Equipment**

All equipment and resources needed to offer the program are already in place. All labs meet industry-based standards, and in fact the campus will receive equipment and training from the Cisco Corporation to help keep it current with changes in network technology. The campus has a NetLab system in place which allows students remote access to routers and switches at the institution so they can have the necessary practice in network configuration.

## **7. Administration**

The program will be administered by the Department Head for Business and Services. The proposed program is inter-departmental in nature. Within the LTC, the reporting line is: Department Head > Assistant Campus Dean > Campus Dean > LTC District Vice Chancellor > LTC Chancellor.

## **8. Accreditation**

No national accreditation is mandatory for a program of this type.

## **9. Budget**

Current expenses and revenues for the past two years are shown below:

	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>
<b>Salaries</b>	\$ 159,764	173,483
<b>Travel</b>	19,977	7,951
<b>Operating Services</b>	4,136	2,953
<b>Supplies</b>	4,066	6,774
<b>Acquisitions</b>	58,074	27,448
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 246,018</b>	<b>\$ 218,609</b>
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$ 102,369</b>	<b>\$ 125,494</b>
<b>Self-generated Revenue</b>	<b>87,950</b>	<b>41,850</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>55,699</b>	<b>51,264</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 246,018</b>	<b>\$ 218,608</b>

Since this is an expansion of an existing program, the only additional expenditures will be for adjunct instructors (\$5000/yr total) and \$1000 per year, starting in Year Two, for supplies. So the campus projects a need for an additional \$6000 per year, starting in Year Two. This figure will be offset by increases in tuition revenue due to increased enrollment.

### **STAFF SUMMARY**

The proposed curriculum is compliant with relevant Board policies and is well-designed to meet the needs of its stakeholders. Need for the program is modest but likely to increase. Student interest is healthy. Faculty are in place and well-qualified; the campus anticipates no need to hire additional faculty at this time. Library, facilities, and equipment are likewise in place and not expected to require additional resources for implementation. The administrative structure is consistent with arrangements elsewhere in the LTC. National accreditation is not an issue. Funding needs are modest (6K/year beginning in Year 2) and the campus pledges that additional student revenue will be sufficient to absorb these costs.

The campus has addressed all staff concerns appropriately; therefore, the staff recommends approval.

### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATION***

***The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed A.A.S. in Computer Network Administration (CIP 11.1001) at Louisiana Technical College - Teche Area Campus, effective immediately.***